

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-18 and 20 are presently active in this application, Claims 1, 6, 14-16 and 18 amended and Claims 2, and 7-8 canceled by way of the present amendment.

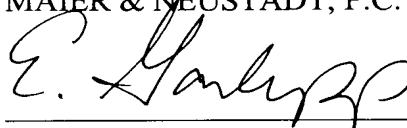
The present amendment is supplemental to the response filed October 15, 2007, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111(a)(2)(A) and (B) this Supplemental Reply should be entered as placing the application in condition for allowance and/or adoption of the Examiner's suggestions.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Getachew for the August 21, 2008 telephone discussion at which time the Examiner explained that, upon review of Applicants' Appeal Brief, prosecution is reopened in this case. The Examiner explained that a new search has been conducted in this case, and that the independent Claims 1, 6 and 18 can be rejected based on prior art discovered. However, Examiner Getachew indicated that the amendments contained herein would overcome the rejection based on the prior art of record. Further, Examiner Getachew agreed to consider the IDS filed herewith in relation to the amended claims. Applicants submit that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the references cited in the IDS.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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